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Firm faces stiff fine over delay in cleanup

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D.S.C. of Newark Enterprises could face fines of \$25,000 per day for missing a federal deadline to remove contamination hazards at Hamilton Industrial Park, a Superfund site.

Ordered to stop hazardous chemicals from leaving the Hamilton Boulevard site, the property owner was supposed to begin corrective measures last week, said Eric Wilson of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

But workers hired to pave a contaminated dirt roadway were reluctant to

begin the work because of health and safety concerns at the site, Wilson said.

"They weren't experienced with working with hazardous waste sites," Wilson said, declining to identify the contractor.

Wilson is coordinating EPA efforts to clean up hazardous levels of polychlorinated biphenyls found at the site.

PCBs damage the liver and immune system, and are suspected of causing cancer.

The agency has ordered the property owner to eliminate hazards by paving the dirt roadway on the 25-acre site, erecting fences around tainted areas, and putting up silt fencing to keep contaminants from migrating into the Bound Brook, which crosses the property.

Work was to begin July 7, according to a plan D.S.C. submitted to the EPA.

The construction contractor was aware of contamination at the site before accepting the project, said Gary Boyer, a project engineer with Oxford Environmental of Pine Brook, which recommended the unidentified firm.

"The contractor approved it," said Boyer, "but the laborers said, 'We're not so comfortable doing this.'"

Boyer said Oxford is trying to find other contractors and workers to complete the project.

Wilson said it is sometimes difficult to find contractors experienced and trained in working at hazardous-waste sites.

The EPA requires laborers to be trained in handling hazardous

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Crews hired to pave a contaminated dirt roadway were reluctant to begin the work because of health and safety concerns at the Superfund site.

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